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tain). No Union troops reached the top of Lookout during Hooker's battle. "As Sherman came fighting along Missionary Ridge from the left Bragg removed more troops from the centre" to oppose him. Sherman carried no part of Missionary Ridge proper, did not advance along it, and Bragg sent no troops whatever from the centre toward Sherman. On the contrary, three brigades, namely, Brown's, Cummins's and Maney's, were ordered from in front of Sherman to resist Thomas's assault in the centre.

The dozen pages towards the close of the little volume present the most graphic picture of the closing days of Lee's army yet given by any writer in such compass. The full Grant chronology is a most attractive and valuable addition to the volume. All in all it is a striking book; but the editor should have applied the test of the official records to its statements of detail.

*Historic Towns of the Southern States.* Edited by LYMAN P. POWELL, with introduction by W. P. TRENT. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. xxxviii, 604.)

THE book before us completes the triad of volumes on the older American Historic Towns, the former numbers of the series having dealt with the historic towns of the New England and of the Middle States respectively. In the interest of clearness of thought there ought to be a more general agreement as to what states constitute "the South;" for the expression is fast becoming as vague a one as that of "the West," and quite as ambulatory. Does the word Southern convey a geographical, a social, or a political idea? From any point of view it is surprising to find that no mention is made in this volume of San Antonio, the connecting link between Latin and Anglo-Saxon America, and a city literally teeming with historic monuments. It is scarcely less unfortunate that separate chapters have not been devoted to Alexandria and Georgetown. Just why such ancient boroughs are ignored, as dead as Jamestown though they may be, and considerable space devoted both to Frederic Town—famous only by reason of Whittier's imaginary incident—and Little Rock, where not even romance appears ever to have recorded anything peculiarly striking, are among the several diverting features of the volume. Curiously enough, moreover, of the eighteen towns described herein with varying degrees of interest, fully one-fourth are southern or northern according to one's point of view.

Professor Trent's introductory essay is by all odds the most modern and valuable portion of the book. In it he sets forth at considerable length and with great clearness the manifold economic and social conditions which hindered the growth of urban communities at the South prior to the Civil War. He also throws considerable light on the various attempts of *ante bellum* leaders to foster the growth of commerce and industries—a favorite expedient having been the convention. The greatest drawback to most of the other papers is their lack of originality. Their

authors, as a rule, appear to be much more interested in the remote history of the states in which the towns they write about are situated than in the history of the towns themselves, and it is this lack of local coloring, so to speak, that causes the present volume to suffer by a comparison with its predecessors. Not that the South is lacking in towns of historic interest, for in no other part of the United States would a proper study of urban beginnings yield more fruitful results. The trouble seems to lie mainly in the absence of a trained corps of investigators. Comparatively little, for example, is said by any of these writers about city charters, municipal activity, statistics of wealth and population, or, indeed, anything else that is likely to prove either of interest or value to the student of local institutions.

Perhaps the best chapters are those represented by Mr. Yates Snowden's "Charleston," the late Mr. William Wirt Henry's "Richmond," President Lyon G. Tyler's "Williamsburg," Mr. Peter J. Hamilton's "Mobile," Professor George Petrie's "Montgomery," Judge Joshua W. Caldwell's "Knoxville," and Mr. Lucien V. Rule's "Louisville." It is noteworthy that in the article on New Orleans nothing whatever is said about such topics as Lafitte, the Civil War, or reconstruction. The book is generously illustrated. It contains a good index, and is comparatively free from typographical errors. And in spite of the imperfections indicated above, those who may perchance read the volume will not only get a better knowledge of the romance of the Old South and the promise of the New, but they will also find scattered throughout its pages many important references to original sources.

B. J. RAMAGE.

*Chapters from Illinois History.* By EDWARD G. MASON. (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone and Co. 1901. Pp. 322.)

THE ambition of the late Edward G. Mason, for some time president of the Chicago Historical Society, to write a scholarly and exhaustive history of the state of Illinois found realization only in five "chapters" now brought out by a Chicago firm as a posthumous work. Probably only the first of these five fragments, that entitled "The Land of the Illinois," is in its final and accepted form; yet no doubt a large part of the remaining detached essays would have found a place in the completed work. They bear the titles: "Illinois in the Eighteenth Century," "Illinois in the Revolution," "The March of the Spaniards across Illinois" and "The Chicago Massacre" (of 1812). The first was printed by the Fergus Company of Chicago, in 1881, and the third in the *Magazine of American History* for May, 1886. The others have never appeared in print.

The "Land of the Illinois" begins with what the author regards as the earliest written reference to the Illinois Indians, "a nation where there is a quantity of buffalo," as marked on the map of New France made by Champlain in 1632. From this starting-point, the narrative